



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.7946 | FAX (517) 373.2678
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/stamas/

For Immediate Release
September 7, 2005

Contact: Chad Wing
(517) 373-7946

Senate votes to restrict violent, sexually explicit video games

LANSING – Parents concerned about their children’s exposure to extremely violent and sexually explicit video games will be relieved to know legislation limiting the sale of such games was approved by the Senate and sent to the governor Wednesday, announced Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland.

“Parents want to know that their young children can’t just walk into a store and grab an extremely violent video game off the shelf,” Stamas said. “It’s too easy for children to buy these games on their own. We need to do everything we can to help ensure that parents decide what their children buy.”

The legislation would make it a crime to sell ultra-violent or sexually explicit games to children younger than 17-years-old. It follows closely on other Senate Republican efforts to protect Michigan families.

This year, undercover investigations conducted by county sheriffs found that children as young as nine years old were able to purchase video games rated for adults only at many of the stores investigated.

Violent video games have been linked to violent or criminal behavior in young people. Many studies have shown that violent or aggressive behavior can be caused by playing games that graphically depict violence.

In one case in Ingham County last year, two boys caused a crash that killed a father and his young son. The boys had been driving recklessly and were trying to imitate the violent game Grand Theft Auto, in which players kill pedestrians and other drivers.

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